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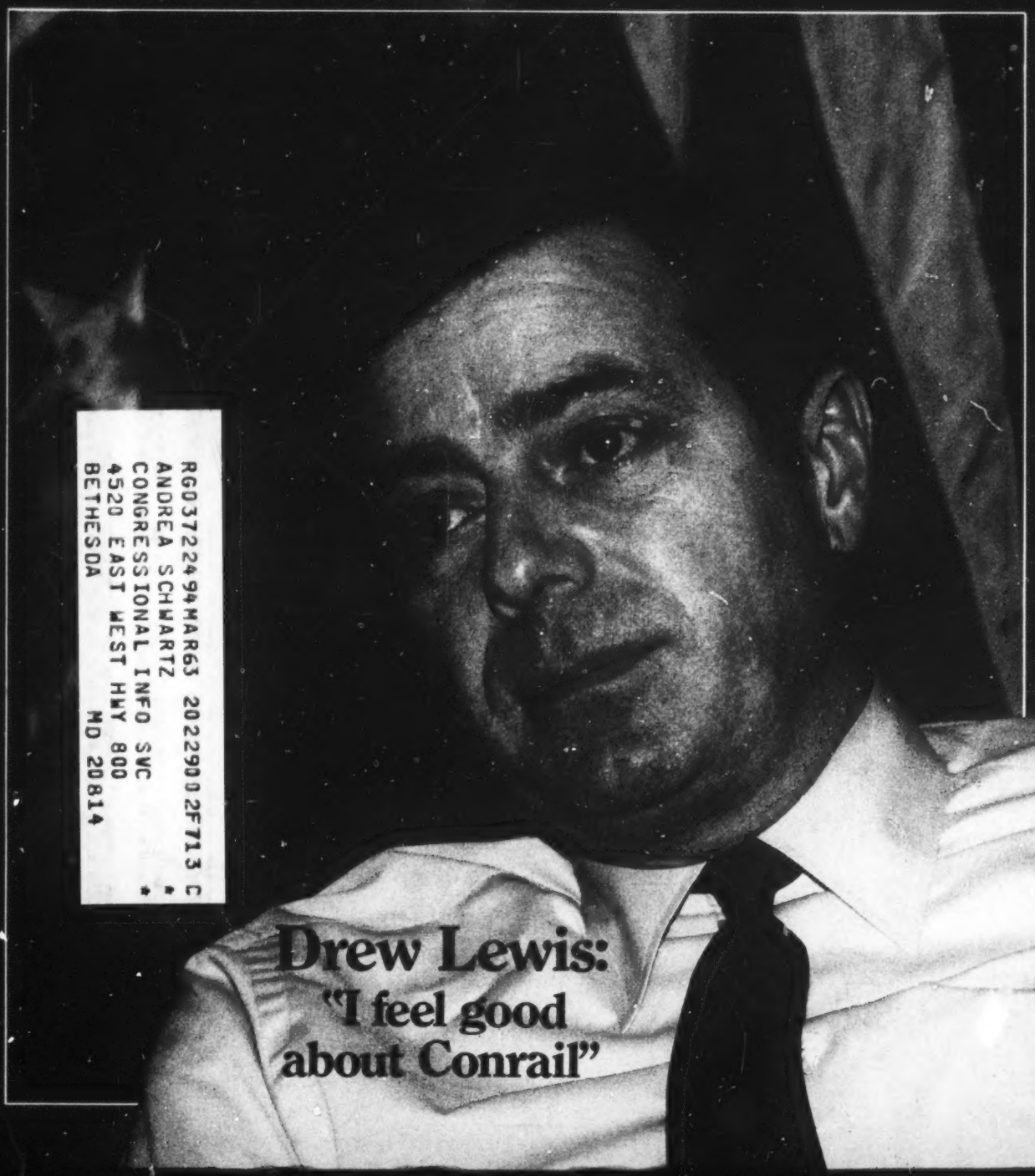
GRS: Staying young at 78 with expanding R&D

March 8, 1982

RAILWAY AGE



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Drew Lewis: "I feel good about Conrail"

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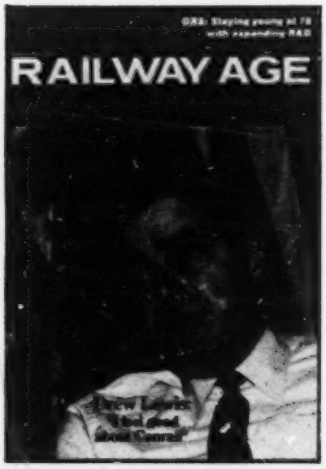
FEATURES



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19 Drew Lewis: "I feel good about Conrail"
In an exclusive interview with Railway Age, DOT Secretary Lewis talks about his hopes for Conrail, Amtrak, transit—and prospects for more rail deregulation.

25 Track machines: They're working harder, faster
Here's how manufacturers have responded—and continue to respond—to railroad demands for m/w programs that leave more track-time for revenue operations.

32 New reefer trailers are designed to keep their cool
Union Pacific Fruit Express and Freuhauf have come up with a design in which air circulation will be improved through a number of structural changes.

34 When is it better to load a foreign car?
Peter W. French, manager of the AAR's Freight Car Management Program, had some interesting answers for railroaders attending a recent Memphis seminar.

36 GRS: Staying young at 78 with expanding R&D
Research and development leading to technological breakthroughs—and new product lines—is a tradition at GRS, which has recently doubled its R&D outlays.

46 Dade County Metrorail takes shape
Completion of the 20.5-mile Stage I line—plus a downtown feeder system—is now assured; first trains are expected to be in operation by Christmas 1983.

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COVER: Photo by Stan Jennings.

Market

CARLOADINGS

Loadings of revenue freight in the week ended Feb. 13 totaled 379,174 cars, according to the Association of American Railroads. This was a decrease of 37,552 cars, or 9.0%, compared with the corresponding week last year. Ton-miles generated by carloadings in the week ended Feb. 13 are estimated at 16.4 billion, a decrease of 5.1% below the corresponding week of 1981.

REVENUE FREIGHT CARLOADINGS

Commodity	Feb. 13 week	Feb. 6 week
Grain	26,351	25,108
Other farm products	3,839	3,984
Metallic ores	21,201	18,543
Coal	111,281	107,141
Crushed stone, gravel & sand	8,651	8,546
Nonmetallic minerals	9,861	10,793
Grain mill products	14,248	14,048
Food & kindred products	15,150	14,952
Primary forest products	16,558	15,975
Lumber & wood products (except furniture)	5,395	5,616
Pulp, paper & allied products	17,662	18,036
Chemicals & allied products	24,049	22,960
Petroleum products	4,972	4,918
Stone, clay & glass products	9,588	9,668
Coke	4,708	4,883
Metals & products	10,613	12,009
Motor vehicles & equipment	13,068	10,979
Waste & scrap materials	9,292	9,045
Forwarder & shipper assn. traffic	9,285	9,052
All other carloads	43,153	41,880
LCL traffic	249	256
Total Cars Loaded	**379,174**	**368,392**
Cumulative total, 7 weeks	1982 **2,456,193**	1981 **2,895,343**
Estimated revenue ton-miles (billions), 7 weeks	**106.7**	**121.5**

PIGGYBACK LOADINGS

U.S. piggyback loadings for the week ended Feb. 6 totaled 35,362 cars (8.8% above the corresponding 1981 week) and 63,056 trailers or containers (up 7.3% from 1981). Cumulative volume for the first six weeks of 1982 is 188,209 cars (up 5.8% from 1981) and 337,390 trailers or containers (up 5.1% from 1981).

CANADIAN CARLOADINGS

Canadian railway revenue freight loaded in the ten-day period ended Jan. 31 totaled 5.6 million tons (down 16.4% from 1981). Cars loaded totaled 77,719 (down 18.3% from 1981). Cumulative loadings for 1982 were 16.4 million tons (down 15.8% from 1981).

● *Bay Area Rapid Transit.*—Is seeking bids on a $19-million project designed to improve the fire resistance of BART's car fleet. Included in the project will be replacement of existing car-interior liners with fire resistant materials, installation of fire resistant materials in the sidewalls and ceiling to serve as a "fire stop" and prevent the spread of combustion, coating the interior of the car roof with a fire resistant paint, coating of selected floor panel areas with a protective covering and installation of brake grid heat shields. Bids on the work are due June 1.

● *Colombian National Railways.*—Will use proceeds of a $77-million World Bank loan to help finance a five-year, $176.7-million modernization program. Items financed by the loan—freight cars, locomotives, rails, track machines, switches, workshop machinery, forklift trucks, and signaling and communications equipment—will be subject to international competitive bidding.

● *Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority.*—Awarded a $53.5-million contract to the Tokyu Car Corp. of Japan for the supply of 60 new Red Line rapid transit cars. Funding is provided through an 80% grant from UMTA and a matching 20% local portion to be realized from GCRTA's recent capital improvement bond sale. A prototype car is to be delivered in February 1984 with the entire order to be delivered by February 1985. Use of federal funds requires that at least 51% of the vehicle cost will consist of U.S. products.

● *Norfolk & Western.*—Ordered 25 six-axle, 3,600-hp C36-7 diesel-electric locomotives from General Electric at a cost of "about a million dollars" a unit, according to NW President Robert B. Claytor. The new units will be delivered by the end of June. NW purchased six of the high-adhesion units from GE last spring. NW says the C36-7 uses "significantly less fuel than other high horsepower units in service" and will permit the retirement of less fuel-efficient units to keep NW's locomotive fleet "lean for the 1980s."

● *Port Authority Transit (Pittsburgh).*—Seven builders are seeking to qualify as bidders on an order for 55 light rail vehicles to be used on PAT's new 10.5-mile LRV line, which is scheduled to go into operation on Thanksgiving Day 1984. They are the Budd Co., Bombardier and Urban Transit Development Corp. of Canada, Kinki Sharyo and Tokyu Car of Japan, Siemens-DuWag of Germany, and Ganz Mavag of Hungary.

● *U.S. Steel Corp.*—Has selected Kaiser Engineers to provide engineering services for conversion of an existing structural mill to a rail mill at U.S. Steel's South Works, Chicago. The new mill will be designed to produce approximately 700,000 tons of rail a year in lengths up to 82 feet.